The Council re-assembled at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 9th day of March 1921, the Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir P. RAJAGOPALA ACHARIYAR, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., President, presiding.

I

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Order made by the President of the Madras Legislative Council under Standing Order No. 15.

(1) Printed copies of the questions and answers to be put and given at a meeting of the Council shall be placed on the Council table an hour before the President takes his seat.

(2) The questions shall be put and answered in the following manner:—

The Secretary shall call the name of each interpellater in alphabetical order, specify the serial numbers of his questions, and make the sufficient pause to allow him or any other member a reasonable opportunity of rising in his place if he is desirous of asking a supplementary question. Supplementary questions must be put immediately after the principal questions to which they relate.]

Smuggling of gold into British India.

401 Q.—Mr. B. P. DEVARAJULU NAYUDU: To ask the Hon'ble the Member for Finance whether—

(*a*) it is true that, with regard to the smuggling of gold into British India, the usual fine of Rs. 2 per sovereign was not imposed but the fines of Rs. 15 per sovereign and Rs. 60 per American gold dollar were imposed; and the parties were directed to redeem the gold under section 183 of the Sea Customs Act after paying such fines;

(*b*) it is true that in some cases the parties were refused permission to redeem them even; after paying such fines, though their orders of confiscation contained a clause for redemption;

(*c*) the imposition of the full market value of the sovereign did not render the right redemption conferred by section 183 nugatory;

(*d*) it is not reasonable to impose double or treble the usual fine and allow the parties redemption under section 183 of the Sea Customs Act; and

(*e*) the petitions for lowering the fines were all dismissed by the Board of Revenue.

A.—(*a*) There is no such thing as a 'usual fine' for an offence. When moderate penalties fail to deter, higher penalties have to be imposed.

(*b*) In some cases the smuggled gold was acquired under the Gold Import Act, 1917.

(*c*) When persistent smuggling renders deterrent penalties necessary, it may happen that the penalty equals or exceeds the value of the goods smuggled.

(*d*) The penalty imposed in any particular case must depend upon the circumstances of the case.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Telegraphic communication to Rasipur and Attur in Salem district.

402 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Public Works—

(*a*) whether the Government have received mahazars from merchants and bankers of Rasipur and Attur towns of the Salem district requesting to open telegraphic communication to their places;

(*b*) what steps have been taken in the matter;